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# Charlotte New Music Festival Counts On Composer Ron Parks

## Quick Facts

■ Now in its third year, the festival was started by composer/instrumentalist Elizabeth Kowalski with the hope of fostering collaborations between musicians and increasing the presence, creation and education of music in the Charlotte community.



*Ron Parks*

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA — A familiar face can be seen at the Charlotte New Music Festival: Winthrop University **Associate Professor of Music Ron Parks**.

Now in its third year, the festival was started by composer/instrumentalist Elizabeth Kowalski with the hope of fostering collaborations between musicians and increasing the presence, creation and education of music in the Charlotte community. During the planning process, she asked Parks for help, calling on his experience with organizing workshops, conferences and festivals.

They plan to continue the festival every year in June, Parks said.

"It's a mix of compositions lessons, lectures, workshops, concerts and dance," he said of the festival.

Parks' lecture is scheduled for Sunday, June 22, at the **Charlotte Plaza Hotel, located at 201 South McDowell St.**

The festival, which runs through June 28, also includes numerous concerts. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students. Upcoming concerts include classical guitarist Paul Bowman (free concert), the Loadbang Ensemble, the Freya String Quartet and Iktus Percussion.

Parks holds degrees from North Carolina School of the Arts and the University of Florida as well as a Ph.D. in composition from the University of Buffalo. He has written for numerous performers and ensembles, including the Georgia Contemporary Ensemble, the International Music Program Chamber Ensemble and the Out of Bounds Ensemble. His compositions and papers have also been included at national and international festivals and conferences including the Malgrat del Mar Music Festival, the National Flute Association Conference, the Australian Flute Festival and the Two-Sided Triangle concert series in Germany. His honors and awards include the Aaron Copeland Award, the Outstanding Junior Professor Award at Winthrop and the S.C. Music Teacher's Association Commission.

For more information on the festival, visit the official website at [www.charlottenevmusic.org](http://www.charlottenevmusic.org).

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

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